

We all agree improving our system will make America more competitive and give families peace of mind. Let's work together to put the doctor and patient back in control.

RETURNED TARP FUNDS MUST BE USED TO PAY DOWN DEFICIT

(Mr. LANCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, last week, the U.S. Department of the Treasury announced the repayment of TARP funds from 10 banks totaling \$68.3 billion returned to the TARP program. The TARP repayment news is a promising sign that our beleaguered financial system is beginning to stabilize and taxpayer funds are being returned.

While many of my colleagues and I have called for these repayments to be applied to help pay down the national debt, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner has indicated that the returned funds would "free up resources" for future bailout loans.

I respectfully disagree with the Secretary's position that these moneys should be reused in the future. The repaid taxpayer funds should only be used to pay down the ever-growing national debt.

I call on Congress to pass H.R. 2119, legislation I am cosponsoring that would require the Treasury to apply returned TARP funds to debt reduction.

CONGRATULATING ROLANDO M. OCHOA ON RECEIVING HIS DOCTOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

(Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. I rise today to congratulate my friend Rolando Ochoa, vice president and branch manager of the Sunny Isles branch of BankUnited, upon earning a Doctor of Business Administration from Nova Southeastern University in South Florida.

As part of the program, Dr. Ochoa completed a grueling program of at least 68 credit hours in difficult disciplines. Although already greatly respected for his career in the banking industry, Rolando Ochoa has continued to deepen his knowledge of business and the banking industry. His admirable pursuit of excellence in his field will be of great assistance to our South Florida community.

On Saturday, Dr. Ochoa will graduate from Nova Southeastern, having been granted his doctorate. It is my privilege and honor to congratulate you, Dr. Rolando Ochoa, on this great achievement. I know that your dedication to excellence will continue to serve our community well.

□ 1345

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2847, COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution H. Res. 552 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 552

Resolved, That during further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2847) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes, no further general debate shall be in order. Notwithstanding clause 11 of rule XVIII and House Resolution 544, and except as provided in section 2, no further amendment shall be in order except: (1) amendments numbered 3, 6, 19, 22, 25, 31, 35, 41, 59, 60, 62, 63, 69, 71, 93, 96, 97, 98, 100, 102, 111, 114, and 118 printed in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2009, pursuant to clause 8 of rule XVIII, which may be offered only by the Member who submitted it for printing or a designee, and (2) not to exceed 10 of the following amendments if offered by the ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or his designee: amendments numbered 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 104, 105, 106, 107, and 108 printed in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2009, pursuant to clause 8 of rule XVIII. Each amendment listed in this section shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived except that an amendment may be offered only at the appropriate point in the reading. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. The chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their designees each may offer one pro forma amendment to the bill for the purpose of debate. Such amendment may be repeated, but only after consideration of an amendment listed in the first section of this resolution.

SEC. 3. The Chair may entertain a motion that the Committee rise only if offered by the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or his designee. The Chair may not entertain a motion to strike out the enacting words of the bill (as described in clause 9 of rule XVIII).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from New York is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my friend from Florida, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART. All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 552.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H. Res. 552 provides for further consideration of H.R. 2847, the Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2010, under a structured rule.

Madam Speaker, I know it's safe to say that this has been a memorable appropriations process for both sides, and we're only getting started on this bumpy ride.

Appropriation bills often generate very emotional responses on all sides, and this year is no different. The process is time-consuming and stressful, and my colleagues on Rules know that we were not meeting well after 1 a.m. this morning simply because we like each other's company.

The rule we rise to consider today came about as a result of concern from the Appropriations Committee that we were unlikely to get an agreement from the minority for a set and reasonable schedule to consider these spending bills.

Without such an agreement, there was a very real fear on our side that the process could have degenerated into a drawn-out battle, jeopardizing our party's commitment to getting each of the 12 appropriations bills completed on time this year.

At all costs, our party wanted to avoid a repeat of a disastrous 2-month stalemate that shut down the government in 1995 and 1996. And while it's sometimes tempting for the party in the minority to blow up the process, as leaders in the House, we're determined to legislate in a way that seeks common ground and makes everybody proud.

Moreover, we have in recent years detected a trend where more and more amendments are given to us each year on appropriations bills, often for no other reason than political gamesmanship or stunts.

There was not a single amendment to this bill in fiscal year 2003, but this year we had 127 amendments filed on the bill as of the Tuesday deadline. That suggested to us that we were in for what potentially could have been a repetitive chain of deleterious and ill-considered amendments, none of which would have allowed us to get any closer to our goal of getting these bills completed and signed into law by the President.

When it became clear this week that the minority was not ready to agree to a clear and firm schedule for finishing the work on the appropriations bills, we decided we had no alternative but to go ahead with a clear and concise plan.